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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

NTY EAST GERMANY/WEST GERMANY

TDCSDB 315 03589-65

OF
3 - 12 NOVEMBER 1965

DISTR. 20 NOVEMBER 1965

SUBJECT

DISPUTES IN PRISONER-EXCHANGE NEGOTIATIONS
ARISING FROM WEST GERMAN DELAYS IN
RELEASING PRISONERS

CE &
EACQ GERMANY, BERLIN (16 NOVEMBER 1965)

REF TDCSDB-315/03589-65

IRCE INTERCEPTED COMMUNICATIONS.

FIELD REPORT NO. 1801 005

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RAISAL

1. PRISONER-EXCHANGE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE HIT ANOTHER
SNAG AS A RESULT OF WEST GERMAN DELAYING TACTICS IN
RELEASING THREE PRISONERS IN WEST GERMAN JAILS ON WHOSE
RETURN THE EAST GERMANS HAVE PLACED A HIGH PRIORITY. /FIELD
COMMENT: THE IDENTITIES OF THE THREE PRISONERS HAS NOT
BEEN DETERMINED. IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRISONER
EXCHANGE NEGOTIATORS, THEY HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO AS THE
"TRIUMVIRATE". SEE TDCSDB-315/03589-65; ACCORDING TO THIS
REPORT, THEIR RELEASE HAD BEEN SET FOR 10 NOVEMBER 1965.

2. ON 9 NOVEMBER, AN OFFICIAL OF THE ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS
MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRANGING THE RELEASE OF THE

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2E
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005

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TRIUMVIRATE INFORMED JULIUS STANGE, THE PRINCIPAL WEST GERMAN NEGOTIATOR, THAT THE RELEASE COULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE 17TH. STANGE THEN ATTEMPTED TO HAVE THE PRISONER EXCHANGE COORDINATORS FOR THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, PRELATE WILHELM WISSING AND JOHANNES LINKE, INTERVENE IN ORDER THAT THE ORIGINAL DATE COULD BE MET. IF NOT, STANGE SAID, "A 'CATASTROPHY' WOULD SET IN" BECAUSE HIS EASTERN NEGOTIATING PARTNER WOLFGANG VOGEL HAD MANAGED TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF 50 SPECIAL CASES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE FREEDOM OF THE TRIUMVIRATE.

3. WISSING ACCUSED STANGE THAT THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOT CHANGED ITS MIND ON THE PRINCIPLE OF THE ISSUE AND THAT THE DELAY WAS DUE TO THE CUMBERSOME BUREAUCRATIC AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS REQUIRED BEFORE PARLONS CAN BE ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT. FURTHERMORE, HE SAID THE HANDLING OF BAIER CASE SHOULD CONVINCE THE EAST THAT ITS FEARS ARE GROUNDESS. /FIELD COMMENT/ ADOLF BAIER, AN SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE FUNCTIONARY, WAS RELEASED BY THE WEST ON 1 JUNE 1965, ALSO AFTER PROLONGED NEGOTIATIONS. STANGE'S REJOINER WAS THAT THE BUREAUCRATIC MACHINERY SHOULD HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION EARLIER IF IT WAS KNOWN THAT THE PROCESS WOULD TAKE SO LONG.

4. IN ANOTHER CONVERSATION BETWEEN STANGE AND AN

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OFFICIAL OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY SERVICE (BUNDESANTWERK VERFASSUNGSSCHUTZ - BFV), THE LATTER IMPLIED THAT THE MACHINERY HAD DELIBERATELY BEEN SET IN MOTION LATE IN THE HOPE THAT THE "SIX PEOPLE FROM PULLACH" MIGHT BE RETURNED PRIOR TO THE WEST GERMAN RELEASES. ON 12 NOVEMBER, THE ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS, INDEED, HIS INTENTION, WHEN HE ASKED STANGE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SIMULTANEOUS EXCHANGE OF THE THREE AGAINST THE SIX OR, IF THIS WERE NOT POSSIBLE, THEN THE RELEASE OF AT LEAST FOUR OF THE PULLACH PEOPLE. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: THE PEOPLE FROM PULLACH PROBABLY REFERS TO INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED FOR COOPERATION WITH THE WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE,) THE BND.)

5. IN ANOTHER DISCUSSION WITH WISSING ON 12 NOVEMBER, STANGE STATED THAT THE RELEASE OF TWO OF THE PULLACH PEOPLE HAD BEEN GUARANTEED FOR 1 DECEMBER AND THAT THE REMAINING FOUR WOULD DEFINITELY COME OUT ON 10 DECEMBER. ON THE SAME DAY, WISSING CALLED BACK AND TOLD STANGE THAT HE HAD OBTAINED POSITIVE ASSURANCE THAT THE TRIUMVIRATE WOULD BE RELEASED ON 19 NOVEMBER, AFTER HE (WISSING) HAD GIVEN HIS PERSONAL GUARANTEE TO THE JUSTICE MINISTRY THAT THE SIX WOULD BE RELEASED.

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